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REMYELINATION USING NEURAL STEM CELLS

REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This is a continuation-in-part application of patent application U.S.S.N. 07/726,812, filed 8 July 1991, the contents of which are hereby expressly incorporated by reference.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to the uses of neural stem cells (NSCs) and their descendants to remyelinate axons. More particularly, the invention is related to the treatment of demyelinating diseases by the remyelination of neurons through the addition of exogenous myelin forming cells and precursors thereof.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Myelin is a cellular sheath, formed by glial cells, that surrounds axons and axonal processes that enhances various electrochemical properties and provides trophic support to the neuron. Myelin is formed by Schwann cells in the peripheral nervous system and by oligodendrocytes in the central nervous system.

Demyelination of central and peripheral neurons occurs in a number of pathologies and leads to improper signal conduction within the nervous systems. Among the various demyelinating diseases Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is the most notable.

In both human demyelinating diseases and rodent models there is substantial evidence that demyelinated neurons are capable of remyelination in situ. In MS, 5 for example, it appears that there are often cycles of de- and remyelination. Similar observations in rodent demyelinating paradigms lead to the prediction that exogenously applied cells would be capable of remyelinating demyelinated axons. This approach has 10 proven successful in a number of experimental conditions [Freidman et al., Brain Research, 378:142-146 (1986); Raine, et al., Laboratory Investigation 59:467-476 (1988); Duncan et al., J. of Neurocytology, 17:351-360 (1988)]. The sources of cells for some of these 15 experiments included dissociated glial cell suspensions prepared from spinal cords (Duncan et al., supra), Schwann cell cultures prepared from sciatic nerve [Bunge et al., 1992, WO 92/03536; Blakemore and Crang, J. Neurol. Sci., 70:207-223 (1985)]; cultures from 20 dissociated brain tissue [Blakemore and Crang, Dev. Neurosci. 10:1-11 (1988)], oligodendrocyte precursor cells [Gumpel et al., Dev. Neurosci. 11:132-139 (1989)], O-2A cells [Wolswijk et al., Development 109:691-608 (1990); Raff et al., Nature 3030:390-396 (1983); Hardy 25 et al., Development 111:1061-1080 (1991)], and immortalized O-2A cell lines, [Almazan and McKay Brain Res. 579:234-245 (1992)].

O-2A cells are glial progenitor cells which give rise 30 in vitro only to oligodendrocytes and type II astrocytes. Cells which appear by immunostaining in vivo to have the O-2A phenotype have been shown to successfully remyelinate demyelinated neurons in vivo. Godfraind et al., J. Cell Biol. 109:2405-2416 (1989). Injection of a large number of O-2A cells is required

to adequately remyelinate all targeted neurons in vivo, since it appears that O-2A cells (like other glial cell preparations) do not continue to divide in situ. Although O-2A progenitor cells can be grown in culture,
5 currently the only available isolation technique employs optic nerve as starting material. This is a low yield source, which requires a number of purification steps. There is an additional drawback that O-2A cells isolated
10 by the available procedures are capable of only a limited number of divisions. Raff Science 243:1450-1455 (1989).

For in vivo remyelination, it would be advantageous to inject only a small number of cells which could go on to divide, migrate to appropriate targets, and
15 differentiate in situ. It has been shown that the presence of type I astrocytes is important for remyelination to occur with exogenously added oligodendrocytes. The use of oligodendrocyte precursors such as O-2A cells requires that type I astrocytes be
20 co-injected, or alternatively that platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) be provided to the remyelinating cells. PDGF is a potent mitogen for the O-2A precursor and is secreted from type 1 astrocytes.

Crude cell preparations and suspensions are not
25 preferred as exogenous sources of remyelinating cells because they contain an unpredictable number of cells as well as large numbers of both neural and non-neural cell types, thus making reproducibility of the process difficult. It is also difficult to obtain suitable
30 numbers of cells from these preparations.

Transformed O-2A cell lines are unsuitable for transplantation due to the fact that the transformation

process leads to a genetically (oncogene) controlled
cell division as opposed to primary cell lines or neural
stem or progenitor cells where regulation of division
is at an epigenetic level. Additional potential
5 problems include instability of cell lines over long
periods of time, and aberrant patterns of
differentiation or responses to growth factors. Goldman
Trends Neuro. Sci. 15:359-362 (1992).

Thus there exists a need for a reliable source of
10 cells for remyelination therapy. Preferably cellular
division in such cells from such a source would be
epigenetically regulated and a suitable number of cells
could be efficiently prepared in sufficient numbers to
effect remyelination. The cells should be suitable in
15 autografts, xenografts, and allografts without a concern
for tumor formation.

Accordingly, it is an object of this invention to
provide a reliable source of epigenetically regulated
cells for transplantation, which are capable of
20 differentiating into oligodendrocytes.

It is another object of this invention to provide
a method for treatment of myelin deficient recipients,
whereby precursor cells derived from stem cells
25 proliferated in vitro are transplanted into a myelin
deficient recipient where the cells differentiate into
oligodendrocytes thus effecting remyelination of the
recipient's axons.

These and other objects and features of the
invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art
30 from the following detailed description and appended
claims when taken in conjunction with the figures.

None of the foregoing references is believed to disclose the present invention as claimed and is not presumed to be prior art. The references are offered for the purpose of background information.

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SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A method of remyelinating neurons is described wherein isolated neural stem cells are proliferated, in vitro, in culture medium containing a growth factor
10 which induces the production of precursor cells. The precursor cells are harvested and, under appropriate conditions, effect the remyelination of demyelinated axons. Alternatively, the precursor cells are allowed
15 to differentiate into oligodendrocytes in the presence of a culture medium which is substantially free of the stem cell-proliferating growth factor. The precursor cell-derived oligodendrocytes are then associated with demyelinated axons to effect remyelination.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Definitions

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The term "stem cell" refers to an undifferentiated cell which is capable of proliferation and giving rise to more stem cells having the ability to generate a large number of progenitor cells that can in turn give rise to differentiated, or differentiable daughter cells.

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The term "neural stem cell" (NSC) refers to the stem cells of the instant invention, the progeny of which under appropriate culturing conditions, include both glial and neuronal progenitor cells.

The term "progenitor cells" refers to the undifferentiated cells of the instant invention, derived

from neural stem cells, the progeny of which may, under appropriate conditions, include glial and/or neuronal progenitor cells.

5 The term "oligodendrocyte" refers to a differentiated glial cell which forms the myelin surrounding axons in the central nervous system (CNS). Oligodendrocytes are of the phenotype galactocerebroside (+), myelin basic protein (+), and glial fibrillary acidic protein (-) [Gal C(+), MBP(+), GFAP(-)].

10 The term "type I astrocyte" refers to a differentiated glial cell type with a flat protoplasmic/fibroblast-like morphology that is GFAP(+), Gal C(-), and MBP(-).

15 The term "type II astrocyte" refers to a differentiated glial cell displaying a stellate process bearing morphology of the phenotype GFAP(+), Gal C(-), and MBP(-).

20 The term "neuronal progenitor cells" refers to cells which produce daughter cells which under the appropriate conditions become or give rise to neurons.

25 The term "oligodendrocyte precursor cells" refers to cells which give rise to oligodendrocytes. Oligodendrocyte precursor cells can have the phenotype A2B5(+), O4(+)/Gal C(-), MBP(-) and GFAP (-) [but are not limited to this phenotype].

The term "neurosphere" refers to a cluster of cells derived from neural stem cells and cultured in vitro. At least some of the cells are of the nestin (+) phenotype. The cluster is comprised of stem cells

and/or progenitor cells and may or may not include differentiated cells.

The term "precursor cells" refers to the living cells of the instant invention that are derived from neural stem cells proliferated in a culture medium containing a growth factor, and includes both progenitor and stem cells. Precursor cells typically grow in the form of neurospheres, but may exhibit different growth patterns depending upon culture conditions.

10 The term "growth factor" refers to a protein or peptide having a growth or trophic effect.

 The term "donor" refers to the human or animal which is the source of the neural stem cells used in the instant invention.

15 The term "harvesting" refers to any method used to procure proliferated cells in a form suitable for injection or transplantation.

20 The term "recipient" refers to the human or animal that has demyelinated axons and into which the precursor cells or oligodendrocytes derived from the precursor cells are transplanted or injected.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Figure 1 indicates only a single progenitor cell for oligodendrocytes and type II astrocytes. In fact, various reports indicate there may be multiple progenitor cells for these differentiated phenotypes. Goldman, TINS 15:359-362 (1992). An important aspect of the diagram is that neural stem cells are unique in

that they are the only stem cell capable of giving rise to both neurons and glial in vitro.

Description of the Preferred Embodiments

Phenotypical characteristics

5 Neural stem cells (NSCs) have been reported and their potential use described. (Reynolds and Weiss, Science 255:1707 (1992)). NSCs have been shown to give rise to at least three glial phenotypes including oligodendrocytes and type I and II astrocytes. NSCs
10 also give rise to neuroblasts. (Reynolds and Weiss, Restorative Neurology & Neuroscience 4:208 (1992)).

15 Neural stem cells can be isolated and cultured by the method of Reynolds and Weiss (supra). In brief, the epidermal growth factor (EGF) responsive stem cell, when grown in a defined serum-free medium, and in the presence of a mitogen such as EGF or the like, is induced to divide giving rise to a cluster of undifferentiated cells. The cluster of cells are not immunoreactive for GFAP, neural filament (NF), neuron
20 specific enolase (NSE) or MBP. However, precursor cells within the cluster are immunoreactive for nestin, an intermediate filament protein found in undifferentiated CNS cells. The nestin marker was characterized by Lehndahl et al., Cell 60:585-595 (1990), and is
25 incorporated herein by reference. None of the mature phenotypes associated with the four cell types which may be differentiated from the progeny of the precursor cells have the nestin phenotype.

30 In the continued presence of a mitogen such as EGF or the like, precursor cells within the neurosphere continue to divide resulting in an increase in the size

of the neurosphere and the number of undifferentiated cells [nestin(+), GFAP(-), NF(-), NSE (-), MBP (-)]. At this stage the cells are non-adherent and tend to form the free-floating clusters characteristic of neurospheres. However, culture conditions may be varied so that while the precursor cells still express the nestin phenotype, they do not form the characteristic neurospheres. After removal of the mitogen the cells adhere to the substrate (poly-ornithine-treated plastic or glass), flatten, and begin to differentiate into neurons and glial cells. At this stage the culture medium may contain serum such as 0.5-1.0% fetal bovine serum (FBS). Within 2-3 days, most or all of the precursor cells begin to lose immunoreactivity for nestin and begin to express intermediate filaments specific for neurons or for astrocytes as indicated by immunoreactivity to NFL or GFAP respectively. In addition, a large number of cells that do not express either of these intermediate filament markers, begin to express markers specific for oligodendrocytes in a correct temporal fashion. That is, the cells first become immunoreactive for O4 (a cell surface antigen), galactocerebroside (Gal C, a myelin glycolipid) and finally, myelin basic protein (MBP). These cells also possess a characteristic oligodendrocyte morphology. This information considered in light of the oligodendrocyte progenitor cells identified by Raff gives rise to a number of possible cell lineage relationships. (See Figure 1).

30 **Preparation of Neurospheres**

Neurospheres can be generated from a variety of tissues including adult or fetal neural tissue from human or animal sources. Briefly, individual stem cells are prepared from the dissociation of neural tissues.

Dissociation can be obtained using any known procedure, including treatment with enzymes such as trypsin, collagenase and the like, or by using physical methods of dissociation such as with a blunt instrument.

5 Dissociation of fetal cells can be carried out in tissue culture medium, while a preferable medium for dissociation of adult cells is artificial cerebral spinal fluid (aCSF). Regular aCSF contains 124 mM NaCl, 5 mM KCl, 1.3 mM MgCl₂, 2 mM CaCl₂, 26 mM NaHCO₃, and 10 mM D-glucose. Low Ca⁺⁺ aCSF contains the same ingredients except for MgCl₂ at a concentration of 3.2 mM and CaCl₂ at a concentration of 0.1 mM.

10 The individual cells can be placed into any known culture medium capable of supporting cell growth and proliferation, including MEM, DMEM, RPMI, F-12, and the like, containing supplements which are required for cellular metabolism such as glutamine and other amino acids, vitamins, minerals and useful proteins such as transferrin and the like. Medium may also contain 15 antibiotics to prevent contamination with yeast, bacteria and fungi such as penicillin, streptomycin, gentamicin and the like. The dissociated cells form neurospheres in the presence of a mitogen such as EGF 20 or the like.

25 **Differentiation of Glial Cells from Neurospheres**

Astrocytes and oligodendrocytes can be differentiated from the precursor cells of the neurosphere by placing the neurospheres in a medium containing 1% fetal bovine serum in the absence of a 30 mitogen, such as EGF or the like, for approximately 3-4 days on poly-ornithine treated glass or plastic. These cells can then be maintained in culture for a suitable time period to produce large numbers of differentiated

cells. Cultures can then be purified to a single cell type using any of the methods known to the art for the purification of specific glial cell populations. Some preferred approaches in this regard are the
5 immunological methods of Wolswijk et al., Development 109:691-698 (1990) and those of Franklin et al., J. Neurocytology 20:420-430 (1991).

Use of Differentiated Cells

Differentiated cells in the form of
10 oligodendrocytes that are derived from precursor cells may be injected into demyelinated target areas in the recipient. Appropriate amounts of type I astrocytes may also be injected. Type I astrocytes are known to secrete PDGF which promotes both migration and cell
15 division of oligodendrocytes. [Nobel et al., Nature 333:560-652 (1988); Richardson et al., Cell, 53:309-319 (1988)].

Use of Non-differentiated Precursor Cells

Non-differentiated precursor cells are preferred
20 as the cells for treatment of demyelinating diseases. Neurospheres grown in the presence of EGF can be dissociated to obtain individual precursor cells which are then placed in injection medium and injected directly into the demyelinated target region.
25 Astrocytes can promote remyelination in various paradigms. Therefore, in instances where oligodendrocyte proliferation is important, the ability of precursor cells to give rise to type I astrocytes may be useful. In other situations, PDGF may be applied
30 topically during the transplantation as well as with repeated doses to the implant site thereafter.

The injection of precursor cells in remyelination therapy provides a source of immature type I astrocytes at the implant site. This is a significant feature because immature astrocytes (as opposed to mature astrocytes) have a number of specific characteristics that make them particularly suited for remyelination therapy. First, immature, as opposed to mature, type I astrocytes are known to migrate away from the implant site [Lindsay et. al, Neurosci. 12:513-530 (1984)] when implanted into a mature recipient and become associated with blood vessels in the recipient's CNS [Silver et al., WO 91/06631 (1991)]. This is at least partially due to the fact that immature astrocytes are intrinsically more motile than mature astrocytes. [Duffy et al., Exp Cell Res. 139:145-157 (1982), Table VII]. Type I astrocytes differentiating at or near the precursor cell implant site should have maximal motility and thereby optimize the opportunity for oligodendrocyte growth and division at sites distant from the implant. The localization of the astrocytes near blood vessels is also significant from a therapeutic standpoint since (at least in MS) most plaques have a close anatomical relationship with one or more veins.

Another characteristic of immature astrocytes that makes them particularly suited for remyelination therapy is that they undergo a lesser degree of cell death than mature type I astrocytes. (Silver et al., supra)

Implantation

Any suitable method for the implantation of precursor cells near to the demyelinated targets may be used so that the cells can become associated with the demyelinated axons. Glial cells are motile and are known to migrate to, along, and across their neuronal

targets thereby allowing the spacing of injections. Injection methods exemplified by those used by Duncan et al. J.Neurocytology, 17:351-361 (1988), incorporated herein by reference, and scaled up and modified for use 5 in humans are preferred. Methods taught by Gage et al. US Patent No. 5,082,670, incorporated herein by reference, for the injection of cell suspensions such as fibroblasts into the CNS may also be employed for injection of precursor cells. Additional approaches and 10 methods may be found in Neural Grafting in the Mammalian CNS, Bjorklund and Stenevi, eds., (1985), incorporated herein by reference.

Autografts

In some instances, it may be possible to prepare 15 precursor cells from the recipient's own nervous system (e.g. in the case of tumor removal biopsies etc.). In such instances the precursor cells may be generated from dissociated tissue and grown in culture in the presence of a mitogen such as EGF or the like, or basic 20 fibroblast growth factor (bFGF). Upon suitable expansion of cell numbers, the precursor cells may be harvested and readied for direct injection into the recipient's CNS. In the case of demyelinating diseases with a genetic basis directly affecting the ability of 25 the myelin forming cell to myelinate axons, it will generally not be useful to remyelinate using the recipients cells as donor cells, unless the cells have been modified in some way to insure the lesion will not continue (e.g. genetically modifying the cells to cure 30 the demyelination lesion).

Xeno and/or allografts may require the application of immunosuppressive techniques or induction of host tolerance to insure longevity of remyelination. Local

immunosuppression is disclosed by Gruber, Transplantation 54:1-11 (1992), incorporated by reference. Rossini, US Patent No. 5,026,365, discloses encapsulation methods suitable for local
5 immunosuppression. General reviews and citations for the use of recombinant methods to reduce antigenicity of donor cells are disclosed by Gruber (supra). Exemplary approaches to the reduction of immunogenicity of transplants by surface modification are disclosed by
10 Faustman WO 92/04033 (1992).

Xenografts

The instant invention allows the use of precursor cells prepared from donor tissue which is xenogeneic to the host. Since the CNS is a somewhat immunoprivileged site, the immune response is significantly less to xenografts, than elsewhere in the body. In general, however, in order for xenografts to be successful it is preferred that some method of reducing or eliminating the immune response to the implanted tissue be employed.
15 Thus recipients will often be immunosuppressed, either through the use of immunosuppressive drugs such as cyclosporin, or through local immunosuppression strategies employing locally applied immunosuppressants. Alternatively the immunogenicity of the graft may be
20 reduced by preparing precursor cells from a donor with reduced antigenicity, such as transgenic animals which have altered or deleted MHC antigens.
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Allografts

Grafting of precursor cells prepared from tissue which is allogeneic to that of the recipient will most often employ tissue typing in an effort to most closely match the histocompatibility type of the recipient. Donor cell age as well as age of the recipient have been
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demonstrated to be important factors in improving the probability of neuronal graft survival. The efficiency of grafting is reduced with increased age of donor cells. Furthermore, grafts are more readily accepted
5 by younger recipients compared to older recipients. These two factors are likely to be as important for glial graft survival as they are for neuronal graft survival.

Implantation in Humans

10 Areas of demyelination in humans is generally associated with plaque like structures. Plaques can be visualized by magnetic resonance imaging. Accessible plaques are the target area for injection of NSCs. Standard stereotactic neurosurgical methods are used to
15 inject cell suspensions both into the brain and spinal cord.

20 Remyelination by the injection of precursor cells is a useful therapeutic in a wide range of demyelinating conditions. It should also be borne in mind that in some circumstances remyelination by precursor cells will not result in permanent remyelination, and repeated injections will be required. Such therapeutic approaches offer advantage over leaving the condition untreated and may spare the recipient's life.

25 A list of human demyelinating diseases for which the cells of the present invention may provide treatment is as follows: disseminated perivenous encephalomyelitis, multiple sclerosis (Charcot and Marburg types), neuromyelitis optica, concentric sclerosis, acute disseminated encephalomyelitis, post encephalomyelitis, postvaccinal encephalomyelitis, acute hemorrhagic leukoencephalopathy, progressive multifocal
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leukoencephalopathy, idiopathic polyneuritis, diphtheric neuropathy, Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease, neuromyelitis optica, diffuse cerebral sclerosis, central pontine myelinosis, spongiform leukodystrophy,^{and}
5 leukodystrophy (Alexander type).

Examples

Example 1

Propagation of precursor cells for transplantation

10 Embryonic day 15 (E15) Sprague Dawley rats are decapitated and the brain and striata are removed using sterile procedure. Tissue is mechanically dissociated with a fire-polished Pasteur pipette into serum-free medium composed of a 1:1 mixture of Dulbecco's modified Eagle's medium (DMEM) and F-12 nutrient mixture (Gibco).
15 The cells are centrifuged at 800 r.p.m. for 5 minutes, the supernatant aspirated, and the cells resuspended in DMEM/F-12 medium for counting.

20 The cells are suspended in a serum-free medium composed of DMEM/F-12 (1:1) including glucose (0.6%), glutamine (2 μ M), sodium bicarbonate (3 mM), and HEPES (4-[2-hydroxyethyl]-1-piperazineethanesulfonic acid) buffer (5 mM) (all from Sigma except glutamine [Gibco]). A defined hormone mix and salt mixture (Sigma) that includes insulin (25 μ g/ml), transferrin (100 μ g/ml),
25 progesterone (20 nM), putrescine (60 μ M), and selenium chloride (30 nM) is used in place of serum. In addition, the medium contains 16-20 ng/ml EGF (purified from mouse submaxillary, Collaborative Research) or TGF α (human recombinant, Gibco). The cells are seeded in a
30 T25 culture flask and housed in an incubator at 37°C, 100% humidity, 95% air/5% CO₂. Cells proliferate within 3-4 days and, due to lack of substrate, lift off the floor of the flask and continue to proliferate in

suspension forming clusters of undifferentiated precursor cells known as neurospheres.

After 6-8 days in vitro (DIV) the neurospheres are removed, centrifuged at 400 r.p.m. for 2-5 minutes, and the pellet mechanically dissociated into individual cells with a fire-polished glass pasteur pipet. Cells are replated in the growth medium where proliferation of the stem cells and formation of new neurospheres is reinitiated. This procedure is repeated weekly and results in a logarithmic increase in the number of viable cells at each passage. The procedure is continued until the desired number of precursor cells is obtained.

15 **Example 2**
 Remyelination of myelin deficient rats

Litters of first day postnatal myelin deficient rats are anesthetized using ice to produce hypothermia. Myelin deficiency is an X-linked trait and thus only one half of the males in any litter are affected. Therefore, only the males are used for these studies. Once anesthetized, a small rostral to caudal incision is made at the level of the lumbar enlargement. The muscle and connective tissue is removed to expose the vertebral laminae. Using a fine rat tooth forceps, one lamina at the lumbar enlargement is removed and a small cut is made in the dura mater to expose the spinal cord.

A stereotaxic device holding a glass pipet is used to inject a 1 μ l aliquot of the cell suspension (approximately 50,000 cells/ μ l) described above. The suspension is slowly injected into a single site (although more could be done) in the dorsal columns of the spinal cord. As controls, some of the animals are sham-injected with sterile saline. The animals are

marked by clipping either toes or ears to distinguish between both experimental groups. Following injection of the cell suspension, the wound is closed using sutures or stainless steel wound clips and the animals
5 are revived by warming on a surgical heating pad and then returned to their mother.

The animals are allowed to survive for three weeks post-injection and are then deeply anesthetized with nembutal (150 mg/kg) and perfused through the left ventricle.
10 The tissues are then dissected from the animal and fixed for 1-3 days with 4% paraformaldehyde in PBS and 95% ethanol/5% acetic acid, respectively and then processed for epoxy embedding. One micron plastic sections are cut with an ultramicrotome and heat-sealed
15 on glass microscope slides and either stained with alkaline toluidine blue (a histological stain for myelin) or processed for immunocytochemistry for the major myelin proteins. Because the myelin deficient rat spinal cord is almost completely devoid of myelin,
20 myelin formed at or near the site of injection will be derived from the implanted cells. It is possible that the process of injection will allow for the entry of Schwann cells (myelinating cells of the peripheral nervous system) into the spinal cord. These cells are
25 capable of forming myelin within the central nervous system but can be easily distinguished from oligodendrocytes using either light microscopy or immunocytochemistry for CNS myelin elements. As noted above, there is usually a very small amount of CNS
30 myelin within the myelin deficient rat spinal cord. This myelin can be distinguished from normal donor myelin based on the mutation within the gene for the major CNS myelin protein, proteolipid protein (PLP).

The myelin deficient rat myelin is not immunoreactive for PLP while the donor myelin is.

5 The myelinated axons are found not only at the site of injection but also in adjacent vertebral sections indicating that the injected precursor cells both migrate away from the site of injection and differentiate to oligodendrocytes in order to form myelin.

10 **Example 3**
10 **Remyelination in human Neuromyelitis optica**
10 Neuromyelitis optica is a condition involving demyelination of principally the spinal cord and optic nerve. Onset is usually acute and in 50% of the cases death occurs within months. The severity of
15 demyelination as well as lesion sites can be confirmed by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

20 Precursor cells are prepared from fetal human tissue by the method of Example 1. Cells are stereotactically injected into the white matter of the spinal cord in the vicinity of plaques as visualized by MRI. Cells are also injected around the optic nerve as necessary. Booster injections may be performed as required.

25 **Example 4**
25 **Remyelination in human Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease**
25 Pelizaeus-Merzbacher disease is a condition involving demyelination of the CNS. The severity of demyelination as well as lesion sites can be confirmed by magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

30 Precursor cells are prepared from fetal human tissue by the method of Example 1. Cells are

stereotactically injected into the white matter of the spinal cord in the vicinity of plaques as visualized by MRI. Cells are also injected around the optic nerve as necessary. Booster injections may be performed as required.